

Promoting Recycling to Local Businesses

Sample Letter to Businesses Regarding Waste Bans

Place on Municipal Letterhead

Dear Business Owner:

Over the past decade, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has phased in regulations restricting the disposal of certain recyclable and hazardous materials. The regulations, 310 CMR 19.017, known as the “Waste Bans,” restrict the disposal of recyclable paper, glass, metal and plastic containers, leaves & yard waste, lead acid batteries, white goods (i.e., appliances), whole tires at landfills, cathode ray tubes (CRTs), asphalt pavement, brick and concrete, metal and wood.

All solid waste destined for a Massachusetts landfill, incinerator or transfer station is monitored for the presence of banned materials. It is the responsibility of the generator to make sure banned materials are not disposed of or contracted for disposal from their business.

Waste loads containing unacceptable quantities of banned material may be rejected, may incur additional handling charges, be subject to enforcement penalties, and/or may cause costly delays to your trash hauler due to the reloading of banned wastes.

The waste bans are a critical component of the state’s *Solid Waste Master Plan*, which has a goal of reducing the amount of waste disposed by 70 percent by 2010. Along with MassDEP recycling grants and outreach efforts, the waste bans have motivated many municipalities and businesses to develop comprehensive recycling programs, contributing to the rise in the state’s recycling rate from 10 percent in 1990 to 35 percent in 2004. Last year, over 6.7 million tons of waste were recycled or composted, supporting 19,000 jobs in more than 1,400 companies.

Talk to your trash hauler to learn what you need to do to get banned materials out of your company’s trash. Many resources on how to establish a recycling program in the workplace, locating a recycling service provider and motivating employees to reduce waste can be located at www.earth911business.com.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the waste bans or recycling, please contact the MassDEP at 617-348-4002.

Sincerely,

Name

Title